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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR TAGS: PREL, CH, US, CA

SUBJECT: SCOWCROFT-EAGLEBURGER MISSION TO CHINA:

BRIEFING CANADIAN OFFICIALS

REF: STATE 400823L

- CONFIDENTIAL ENTIRE TEXT.
- POLOFF BRIEFED EXTERNAL AFFAIRS NORTH ASIA RELATIONS ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR ANDREW HALPER ON SCOWCROFT-EAGLEBURGER MISSION USING REFTEL TALKING POINTS DECEMBER 18. HALPER TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMPLAIN OFFICIALLY BUT MILDLY ABOUT THE USG'S DECISION NOT TO ALERT ALLIES BEFOREHAND ABOUT THE TRIP. THAT CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON BURNEY HAD ALREADY EXPRESSED SIMILAR DISPLEASURE TO THE DEPARTMENT.
- HALPER DENIED, HOWEVER, A RECENT NEWSPAPER ARTICLE DESCRIBING THE GOC AS "SHOCKED BY THE MISSION AND SEEMED PERSONALLY UNDERSTANDING OF THE NEED FOR SECRECY IN THIS CASE. QUERIED ABOUT POSSIBLE GOC MOVES TOWARDS CONFIDENTIAL CONFIDENTIAL

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THE PRC, HALPER SAID HE EXPECTED RELATIONS TO IMPROVE

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